

§ 17.901

and for purposes of covered birth defects means the same as defined at § 3.815(c)(1) of this title.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(2), 1802–1803, 1811–1813, 1821)

§ 17.901 Provision of health care.

(a) *Spina bifida.* VA will provide a Vietnam veteran's child who has been determined under § 3.814 or § 3.815 of this title to suffer from spina bifida with such health care as the Secretary determines is needed by the child for spina bifida. VA may inform spina bifida patients, parents, or guardians that health care may be available at not-for-profit charitable entities.

(b) *Covered birth defects.* VA will provide a woman Vietnam veteran's child who has been determined under § 3.815 of this title to suffer from spina bifida or other covered birth defects with such health care as the Secretary determines is needed by the child for the covered birth defects. However, if VA has determined for a particular covered birth defect that § 3.815(a)(2) of this title applies (concerning affirmative evidence of cause other than the mother's service during the Vietnam era), no benefits or assistance will be provided under this section with respect to that particular birth defect.

(c) *Providers of care.* Health care provided under this section will be provided directly by VA, by contract with an approved health care provider, or by other arrangement with an approved health care provider.

(d) *Submission of information.* For purposes of §§ 17.900 through 17.905:

(1) The telephone number of the Health Administration Center is (888) 820-1756;

(2) The facsimile number of the Health Administration Center is (303) 331-7807;

(3) The hand-delivery address of the Health Administration Center is 300 S. Jackson Street, Denver, CO 80209; and

(4) The mailing address of the Health Administration Center—

(i) For spina bifida is P.O. Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-9025; and

(ii) For covered birth defects is P.O. Box 469027, Denver, CO 80246-0027.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(2), 1802–1803, 1811–1813, 1821)

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NOTE TO § 17.901: This is not intended to be a comprehensive insurance plan and does not cover health care unrelated to spina bifida or unrelated to covered birth defects. VA is the exclusive payer for services paid under §§ 17.900 through 17.905 regardless of any third party insurer, Medicare, Medicaid, health plan, or any other plan or program providing health care coverage. Any third-party insurer, Medicare, Medicaid, health plan, or any other plan or program providing health care coverage would be responsible according to its provisions for payment for health care not relating to spina bifida or covered birth defects.

§ 17.902 Preauthorization.

(a) Preauthorization from a benefits advisor of the Health Administration Center is required for the following services or benefits under §§ 17.900 through 17.905: rental or purchase of durable medical equipment with a total rental or purchase price in excess of \$300, respectively; transplantation services; mental health services; training; substance abuse treatment; dental services; and travel (other than mileage at the General Services Administration rate for privately owned automobiles). Authorization will only be given in those cases where there is a demonstrated medical need related to the spina bifida or covered birth defects. Requests for provision of health care requiring preauthorization shall be made to the Health Administration Center and may be made by telephone, facsimile, mail, or hand delivery. The application must contain the following:

- (1) Name of child,
- (2) Child's Social Security number,
- (3) Name of veteran,
- (4) Veteran's Social Security number,
- (5) Type of service requested,
- (6) Medical justification,
- (7) Estimated cost, and
- (8) Name, address, and telephone number of provider.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, preauthorization is not required for a condition for which failure to receive immediate treatment poses a serious threat to life or health. Such emergency care should be reported by telephone to the Health Administration